

Matthew Robertson. Matthew is a third year law student at Deakin University in Melbourne Australia. He applied to the program with the hope to learn more about the American government. Matthew's extensive knowledge of the Australian government and legal system enhances his understanding of the American legislative process. During his time at my office he had the opportunity to attend Committee hearings, briefings, perform legislative research, and prepare memos for my staff and myself. His professionalism in the office and willingness to handle any task that was assigned to him were outstanding. It has truly been a pleasure to have Matthew in the office.

I am certain that my colleagues were similarly impressed with the work done by the eleven other Australian students in the program. I rise to commend the Uni-Capitol Internship Program for its work to strengthen the relationship between the United States and Australia; and offer Matthew my thanks for a job well done.

A TRIBUTE TO T.J. PATTERSON

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, in celebration of Black History Month, I would like to recognize Thomas James "T.J." Patterson for his dedication to the 19th Congressional District of Texas, as well as his leadership in honoring Black History Month in Lubbock, Texas.

Born in Waxahachie, Texas on June 29, 1937, T.J. was raised in Wichita Falls and graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in 1954. He then went on to attend Bishop College and in 1958 received a degree in Physical Education. After graduation, T.J. came to Lubbock where he met and married his bride of over 50 years, Bobbie Gean.

In 1961, T.J. was drafted into the U.S. Army where he valiantly served his country. After an honorable discharge, T.J. spent several years teaching at the Texas Tech University. In 1977, T.J. co-founded the Southwest Digest, a newspaper that has served as a strong voice for Lubbock's African American community for over 30 years.

In 1984, T.J. was elected as the first African American to serve on the Lubbock City Council, breaking down barriers for others to serve in public offices throughout the community, and I had the honor of serving with T.J. on the City Council. After 20 years of serving as the representative for District 2, T.J. retired from the Lubbock City Council in 2004 as the longest serving council member in Lubbock's history. In addition to this service, T.J. was elected president of the Texas Municipal League in 1998, becoming the first African American president in that organization's history.

T.J. is an active member of the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church. He is a legend in Lubbock's fight against illegal drugs. Over the past several years, T.J. has organized and participated in countless marches against drugs and violence. T.J. is an incredible role model for not only African American children, but all youth.

T.J. and his wife have a branch of the Lubbock Public Library named after them, the

Bobbie Gean and T.J. Patterson Library, and the library hosts annual events in honor of Black History Month. They are pillars of the community and can be found visiting inmates in the local jail on Christmas Day offering messages of encouragement.

I am honored to know T.J. His message to us is that Black History is every day, not just one month out of the year. He is a hero, a public servant and a dreamer; a man of character and a faithful man of God. On behalf of the 19th Congressional District, including myself, I thank T.J. for all he has given and continues to give our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the House floor during Monday's two rollcall votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 4425 and H.R. 4238.

HONORING GEORGE CROUSE FOR BEING NAMED THE UNITED STATES TENNIS ASSOCIATION'S NEW ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL COACH OF THE YEAR

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate George Crouse for being named the New England High School Coach of the Year by the United States Tennis Association (USTA). This is a fitting title for a man who has served as a tennis coach at Stonington High School for 37 years and has amassed more than 600 wins in the process.

George Crouse is a consummate professional and enthusiastic coach whose achievements continue to amaze his colleagues both in Connecticut and around the country. His commitment to the academic success of his student athletes in the classroom, exceed only his record on the court. Since 1973 he has coached boys and girls teams at Stonington High, with the girls team having achieved a 341-96 record while reaching four consecutive Class S state championships. He was named the Connecticut Coach of the Year for both boys and girls tennis in 1998 and 2008, respectively.

The dedication he shows to his athletes is matched only by his passion for the sport of tennis. He is a member of the USTA Connecticut board of directors and operates the Stonington-Eastern Connecticut Community Tennis Association. In addition to coaching the teams of Stonington High, George coaches squads on the USTA Jr. Teams, leading them to state and sectional championships. George is also a public servant, serving in numerous volunteer roles and also as a member of the Stonington Board of Selectman.

I am grateful for Mr. Crouse's service and dedication to the town of Stonington. I am proud to call him a constituent and a friend.

The years of hard work that he has dedicated to improving the lives of countless athletes and members of his community will continue to define his life and his work.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION TO CELEBRATE THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RELEASE OF NELSON MANDELA AND HONOR HIS LIFELONG DEDICATION TO BUILDING A MORE EQUITABLE AND UNITED WORLD

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution that celebrates the 20th anniversary of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela's release from prison and honors his lifelong dedication to building a more equitable and united world.

On February 11, 1990, Nelson Mandela exited Victor Verster Prison in Paarl, South Africa, after 27 years of imprisonment. Years of international pressure from activists, artists and politicians in South Africa and the international community had finally convinced the South African government to reinstate the African National Congress (ANC) as a legitimate political party, and release Nelson Mandela.

In the hours following his release, tens of millions around the world watched as Mandela stood at the City Hall in Cape Town and proclaimed his commitment to abolish apartheid and institute a system of government that protected the rights and freedoms of all people. For over 40 years, racial segregation was enforced under the law of apartheid, and severely restricted black South Africans and other people of color from basic human rights and social and economic equality.

Madam Speaker, Nelson Mandela never wavered from his commitment to combat apartheid and create a free and democratic country whether he was rallying support for the ANC as a young lawyer and activist, or serving as an inmate at the infamous prison on Robin Island. Decades of menial work and degrading conditions in South Africa's prisons did not make Nelson Mandela's drive to achieve a more just and equal society any less potent. Once released, 71-year-old Nelson Mandela and his ANC colleagues continued their efforts to dismantle apartheid until it finally ended in 1994.

More than four years after his release, 20,000,000 South Africans of all colors lined the streets to vote in South Africa's first election that was held under a law of universal suffrage. The people of South Africa elected Nelson Mandela as the first President of the fully representative democratic state, a man whose resilience, humility and eloquence symbolized a new era in which South Africa strove to achieve equality, communication and co-operation within its government and communities. The newly elected President Mandela addressed the world and pledged to lead a "united, democratic, non-racial and non-sexist government" for all people of South Africa.

Madam Speaker, 20 years after his release, Nelson Mandela's wisdom, strength and work continues to inspire people of all walks of life. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution